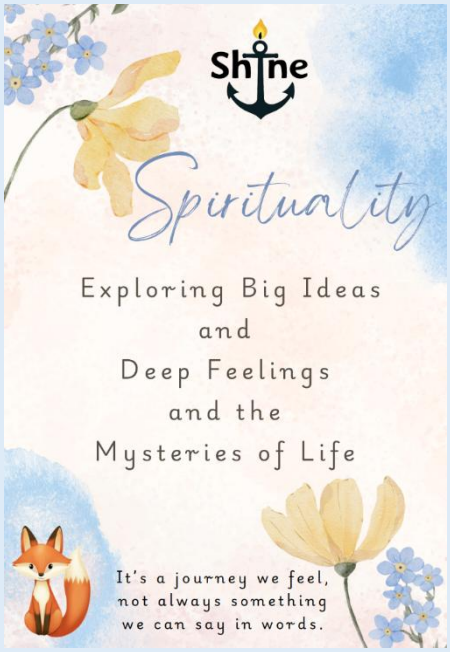
Foxes Class Newsletter
November 2026



Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Welcome to The Foxes Class

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back for another exciting half term in Foxes Class. We have lots of wonderful learning opportunities ahead, with new questions to explore, ideas to investigate and skills to develop. As always, we will encourage one another to be curious, creative and confident, while continuing to grow together as a caring and supportive class community.



Our Christian distinctiveness and spirituality will continue to be at the heart of our learning.

This half term, our memory verse is from Acts 17:26: *"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."*

This verse reminds us that, although we may live in different places and have different backgrounds, we are all part of God's wonderful creation. It encourages us to recognise the importance of every person and to appreciate the diversity of the world around us. We will reflect on how we are all connected and how we can show kindness, understanding and respect towards others, wherever they may come from.

This links beautifully with our geography enquiry, 'Why does population change?' As we explore this question, we will discover how and why populations grow, decline and move over time. We will investigate the factors that influence where people choose to live, including opportunities, resources and the challenges that different places may face. We will also consider how migration shapes communities and how changes in population can affect both people and the environment. Through our learning, we will develop a greater understanding of the world and the many different people and communities that make it such a special place.



Throughout the half term, we will continue to explore our school values and think about how we can let our light shine in everything we do. Inspired by our memory verse, we will celebrate our differences, recognise what brings us together and consider how our own actions can make a positive difference to the lives of others. We will encourage the children to approach their learning with open minds, thoughtful questions and compassionate hearts.

P.E. will take place on Tuesday mornings and will be taught by the expert coaches from Fitt4Kids Coaching. On this day, children should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit: blue or black jogging bottoms or shorts, their school P.E. T-shirt, and a school jumper or hoodie.



Water Bottles

It's important that all children bring a named water bottle to school every day. To help keep everyone healthy and hydrated, bottles should be filled with **water only** – no squash or juice, please.

We kindly ask that every item your child brings to school is clearly labelled. With so many similar items in class, this makes it much easier to keep track of belongings and ensures nothing goes missing. To keep classrooms clutter-free, we also ask that children only bring their reading book to school each day, as all stationery and other learning resources are provided.



Friday 6th November – FSSA Disco 6-7:30pm

Wednesday 9th December – KS2 Christmas dinner at The Bell (Christmas Jumpers)

Monday 14th December – KS2 to Robin Hood Pantomime

Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Carol Service at St Andrew's Church – 9:00am

Thursday 17th December – Break up for Christmas!



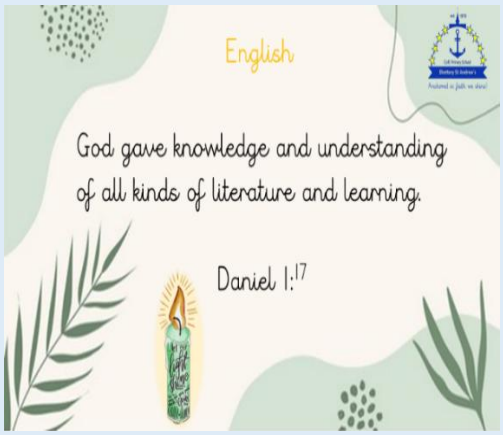
Class Dojo

We will continue to use Class Dojo as a way of celebrating the children's efforts and achievements in Foxes Class. Dojo points are awarded for positive learning behaviours such as resilience, teamwork, and kindness, as well as for living out our Christian values. You can also use Class Dojo to keep up to date with class news and celebrations, so please do check in regularly.

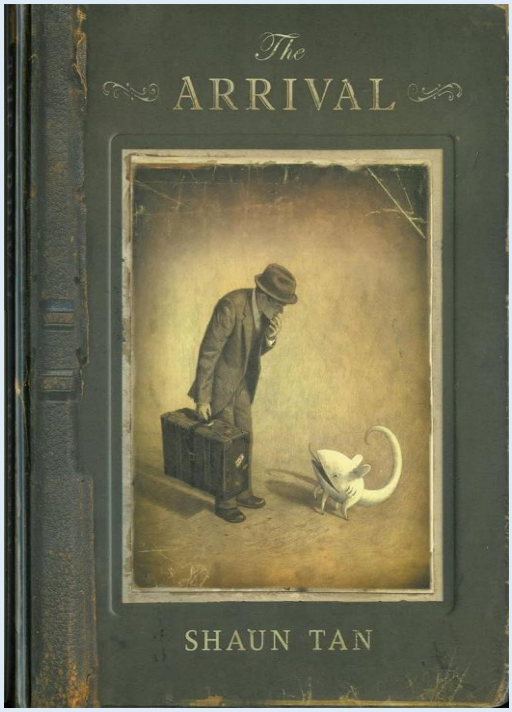
Further information about school life can be found on our website and don't forget to look out for the school's weekly newsletter, which is sent out every Friday.

www.shotterystandrewsprimary.org.uk

English



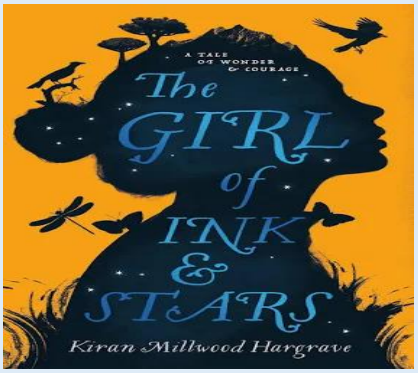
This half term, our English learning will be inspired by The Arrival by Shaun Tan, a beautiful wordless picture book that links closely to our geography enquiry, 'Why does population change?' Through this powerful story, the children will explore themes of migration, belonging and new beginnings, considering the different reasons why people leave their homes and move to unfamiliar places. The illustrations will encourage the children to use their imagination, make inferences and explore different perspectives.



As we explore the text, the children will develop their reading and comprehension skills by interpreting illustrations, making predictions and discussing characters' thoughts, feelings and experiences. They will continue to develop their use of ambitious vocabulary, sentence structure and punctuation, while learning how to create atmosphere, describe settings and convey emotions effectively through their writing.

Throughout the unit, the children will explore a range of writing styles inspired by The Arrival. They will write letters and diary entries from different viewpoints, create detailed character descriptions and produce posters and short reports linked to migration. They will also have opportunities to develop short playscripts, using dialogue to bring characters and their experiences to life.

Reading is an essential part of your child's learning, and we encourage all children to read regularly at home to develop their fluency, confidence and enjoyment of reading. In school, children will take part in regular FFT reading sessions, where they will explore a range of engaging texts and develop key reading skills, including fluency, vocabulary, retrieval, inference and comprehension.



For our Read for Pleasure focus, we will be reading *The Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. This captivating adventure follows Isabella, a young girl who uses her knowledge of maps and the stars to embark on a dangerous journey across a mysterious island. Through this imaginative story, the children will explore themes of friendship, courage, belonging and determination, while considering the importance of bravery, resilience and discovering our place in the world.

In Year 6, spelling will be taught through weekly spelling patterns, giving children opportunities to explore spelling rules, patterns and word families before applying them independently in their writing. Regular practice will help children develop accuracy and confidence, alongside continued work on the statutory Year 5/6 spelling words. We encourage children to practise their weekly spellings at home to reinforce their learning in school.

Year 5 and 6 Statutory Spellings

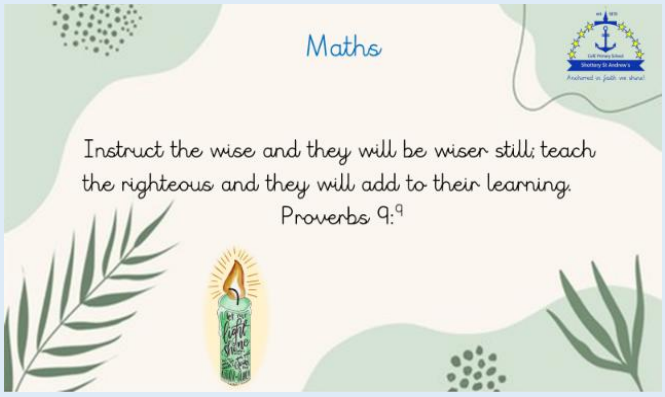
accommodate	category	determined	forty	marvellous	programme	soldier
accompany	cemetery	develop	frequently	mischievous	pronunciation	stomach
according	committee	dictionary	government	muscle	queue	sufficient
achieve	communicate	disastrous	guarantee	necessary	recognise	suggest
aggressive	community	embarrass	harass	neighbour	recommend	symbol
amateur	competition	environment	hindrance	nuisance	relevant	system
ancient	conscience	equipment	identity	occupy	restaurant	temperature
apparent	conscious	equipped	immediate	occur	rhyme	thorough
appreciate	controversy	especially	immediately	opportunity	rhythm	twelfth
attached	convenience	exaggerate	individual	parliament	sacrifice	variety
available	correspond	excellent	interfere	persuade	secretary	vegetable
average	criticise	existence	interrupt	physical	shoulder	vehicle
awkward	curiosity	explanation	language	prejudice	signature	yacht
bargain	definite	familiar	leisure	privilege	sincere	
bruise	desperate	foreign	lightning	profession	sincerely	

Alongside our continued focus on reading and spelling, we will be placing a strong emphasis on developing the children's oracy skills this half term. Oracy is all about learning to express ideas clearly, listen carefully to others and communicate with confidence. These important skills support learning across the curriculum, helping children to explain their thinking, share opinions and take part in meaningful conversations.

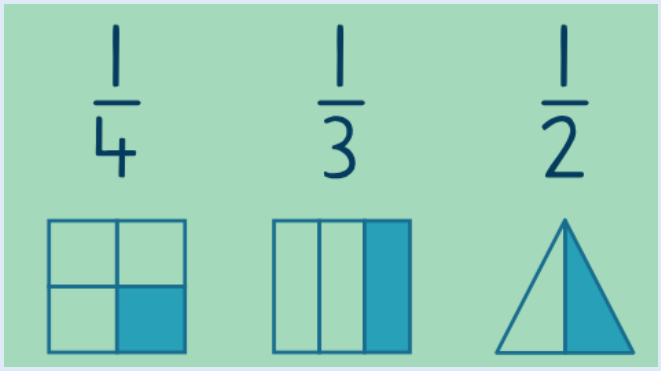
Throughout our learning, the children will have plenty of opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills through class discussions, drama, role-play, presentations and debates. They will be encouraged to ask thoughtful questions, build on one another's ideas and use ambitious vocabulary to express themselves effectively. Developing confidence in spoken language will also support their writing, helping them to organise their thoughts and communicate their ideas clearly.

Our focus on oracy also links beautifully with our Christian values and spirituality. By listening respectfully, appreciating different perspectives and showing kindness towards others, the children will continue to develop empathy, compassion and understanding. We hope to encourage every child to find their voice, value the voices of others and feel confident sharing their thoughts and ideas as part of our caring school community.

Maths



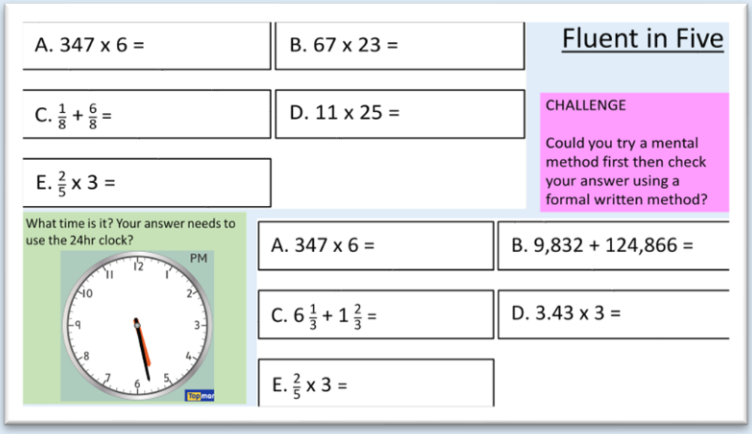
In Year 6, maths is taught using White Rose Maths alongside Mastering Number, supporting children to develop secure mathematical knowledge, fluency and confidence. Lessons provide a balance of clear teaching, practical activities and problem-solving opportunities, with children encouraged to explain their thinking and explore different methods. Through reasoning, discussion and making connections between concepts, children will deepen their understanding and develop the skills needed to become confident and independent mathematicians.



This half term, our focus will be on fractions. The children will build on their existing knowledge by exploring equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions and comparing and ordering fractions. They will develop their understanding of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, including working with mixed numbers and improper fractions. Throughout the unit, children will strengthen their fluency, explain their reasoning and apply their learning to a range of problem-solving activities and real-life situations.

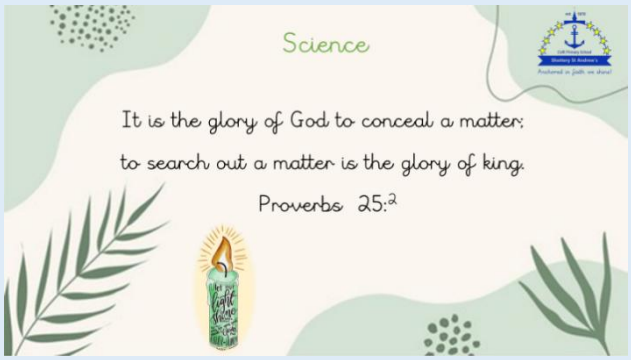
Each morning, children will begin the day with Fluent in Five, a short and focused arithmetic activity designed to strengthen key number skills. Regular practice will help children develop fluency, improve their speed and accuracy and build confidence when working with a range of calculations. Arriving at school promptly will ensure children can make the most of this valuable daily practice.

At the start of each afternoon, children will take part in a rapid reasoning and problem-solving activity. These short challenges will encourage them to apply their mathematical knowledge in different contexts, explain their thinking and develop effective strategies for tackling more complex problems.

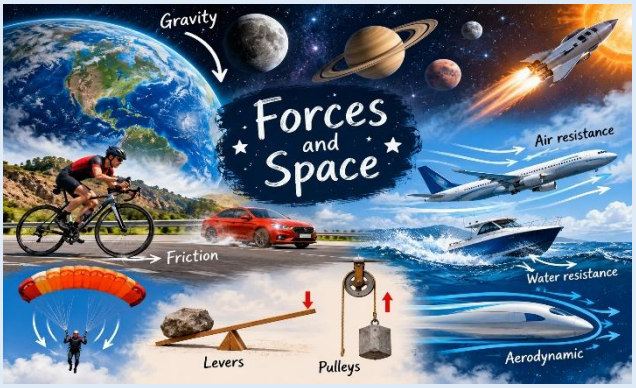


In line with our school's Christian ethos, we also seek to nurture children's spiritual development through maths, encouraging them to recognise awe and wonder in the patterns, sequences and connections found within mathematics and the world around them.

Science

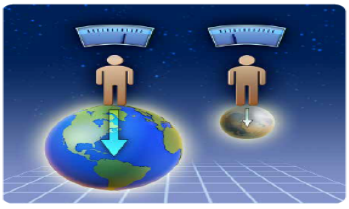


This half term, our science learning will focus on **Unbalanced Forces**, exploring how different forces affect the movement of objects in the world around us. Children will investigate gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance, developing an understanding of how these forces can speed up, slow down or change the movement of objects. They will explore the relationship between mass and gravity, as well as how surface area can affect air and water resistance. We will also discover how objects can be designed to be more aerodynamic or streamlined and investigate how levers, pulleys and simple machines can make movement easier.



As part of our working scientifically skills, children will develop their ability to plan and carry out fair tests, make predictions and record accurate observations. They will investigate the effects of air resistance, considering how to control variables and write clear methods. Children will collect and present their findings in results tables, calculate mean averages and draw accurate line graphs. They will also develop their ability to analyse results, identify anomalies, draw conclusions and evaluate how reliable their investigations have been. Through practical experiments, children will be encouraged to ask questions, explain their thinking and use scientific evidence to support their ideas.

Gravity is a pulling force that acts between any two objects with mass. The greater the mass of the objects and the closer they are to each other, the stronger the gravitational pull between them.

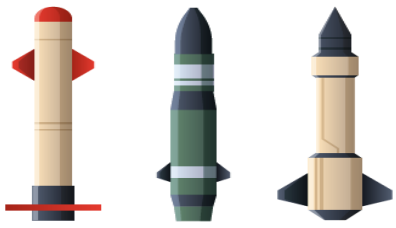


Friction is a contact force between two surfaces that opposes motion and causes a slowing effect. Rougher surfaces and more weight increase friction.

Air resistance, a type of friction, is the force that opposes an object moving through the air. The greater the object's surface area and the faster it moves, the greater the air resistance.



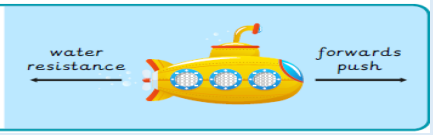
Streamlining involves designing objects to move through air or water more easily by making their shape smooth and sleek to reduce resistance from air or water.



Sir Isaac Newton (1643–1727) was an English scientist who discovered the laws of gravity.

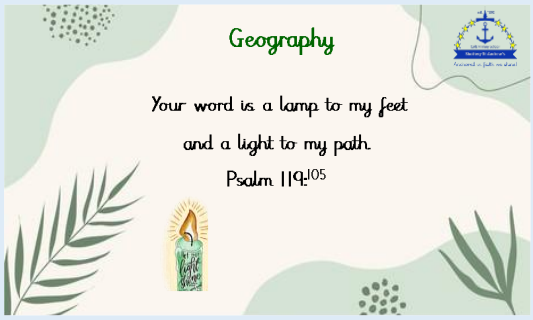


Water resistance, a type of friction, is the force that opposes an object moving through water. The greater the object's surface area and the faster it moves, the greater the water resistance.



Throughout this topic, children will have opportunities to appreciate the awe and wonder of God's creation, recognising the remarkable forces and patterns that shape the world around us. By exploring how forces influence movement in nature and everyday life, children will develop curiosity, reflection and a deeper appreciation of the natural world, supporting their spiritual development alongside their scientific understanding.

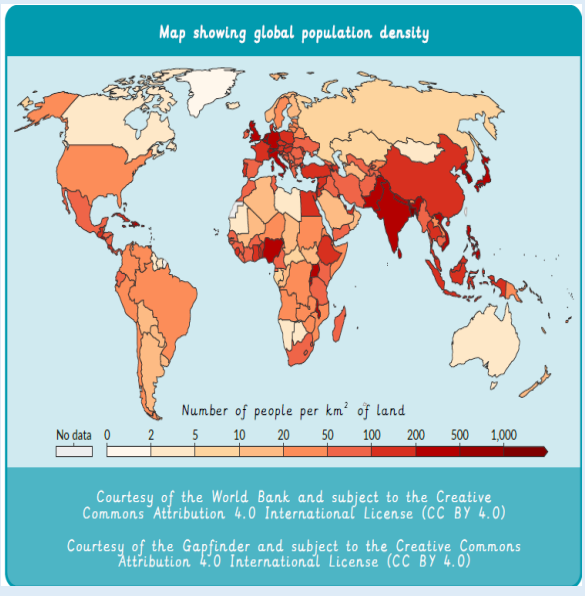
Geography



This half term, our geography learning will focus on the enquiry question, 'Why does population change?' Children will explore how and why populations grow, decline and move around the world, discovering the factors that influence where people live. They will identify the most densely and sparsely populated areas of the world and investigate how the global population has changed over time. We will explore birth and death rates, considering the different factors that can influence population growth. Children will also develop their understanding of migration, exploring the push and pull factors that encourage people to move, as well as the difficult circumstances that may force people to leave their homes.



As part of the unit, children will investigate how climate change affects populations around the world, considering how environmental changes can influence where people live. They will explore the impact of climate change on communities and discuss the actions we can take to protect our planet. Through this learning, children will develop a greater understanding of the challenges faced by different populations and the importance of caring for our environment.



Throughout their learning, children will develop their geographical enquiry and fieldwork skills, using maps, data and observations to investigate different places. They will practise following routes on Ordnance Survey maps, calculating distances using scale and collecting information through questionnaires and surveys, including the use of Likert scales. Children will also create digital maps to compare data collected from two locations, helping them to identify patterns and draw conclusions. The unit will encourage children to think critically about their local environment and suggest ways in which it could be improved.

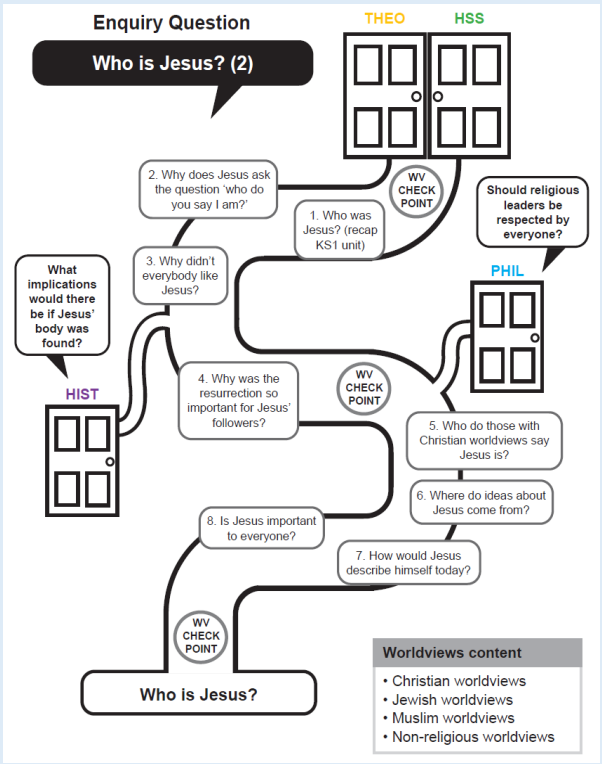
In line with our Christian ethos, this unit encourages children to recognise that every person has value and a place in God's world. Our class memory verse, Acts 17:26, reminds us that all nations share a common humanity and that people inhabit different places across the Earth. As children explore population change and migration, they will reflect on the importance of compassion, kindness and understanding towards those whose lives and experiences may be different from their own. They will also consider our responsibility to care for God's creation and how even small actions can make a positive difference to the world around us.

R.E.



This half term, we will continue exploring our RE enquiry question, 'Who is Jesus?', building on our understanding of how Jesus is viewed by different people and communities. Children will investigate who those with Christian worldviews believe Jesus is, exploring his importance within Christianity and how beliefs about him influence the lives of Christians today. We will also consider where different ideas about Jesus come from, looking at the Bible, religious teachings, personal experiences and the perspectives of people with different religious and non-religious worldviews.

As our enquiry develops, children will reflect on how Jesus might describe himself today, considering his teachings, actions and the qualities associated with his life. They will explore questions about kindness, forgiveness, compassion and love, discussing how these values remain relevant in the modern world. Through thoughtful discussion and reflection, children will consider whether Jesus is important to everyone, recognising that people may hold different beliefs and perspectives about his significance.



Throughout this unit, children will be encouraged to develop their critical thinking, questioning and oracy skills, listening respectfully to different viewpoints and using evidence to explain their own ideas. In line with our Christian ethos, this enquiry will provide opportunities for spiritual reflection, encouraging children to think about their own beliefs, values and understanding of others. By exploring different perspectives, we hope to nurture empathy, respect and compassion, while encouraging every child to reflect on how they can let their light shine within our school community.



